

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 MC-01 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 ACDA-05 COME-00 TRSE-00

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R 281531Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, BM

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON COMMERCIAL MUNITIONS EXPORTS

REF: A. RANGOON 0092; B. STATE 16568

1. AS REQUESTED PARA 3 REFTTEL, THE DEPARTMENT'S CURRENT MUNITIONS EXPORT LICENSING GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO BURMA READ AS FOLLOWS: TEXT: THE US DOES NOT EXPORT ARMS OR AMMUNITION TO BURMA. IF BURMA WERE TO SEEK U.S. MUNITIONS, WE WOULD MAKE A POLICY DECISION ON THE BASIS OF THE SITUATION PREVAILING AT THAT TIME. END OF TEXT. THESE GUIDELINES, WHICH ARE PERIODICALLY UPDATED FOR OVER 100 COUNTRIES, WERE LAST ROUTINELY REVIEWED IN JANUARY 1974 AND APPROVED BY EA.

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2. IN ADDITION TO THIS GENERAL GUIDANCE, WHICH VARIES IN

SPECIFICITY FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY, MUNITIONS CONTROL OFFICERS GENERALLY REFER TO THE REGIONAL BUREAUS FOR CLEARANCE THOSE COMMERCIAL EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS THAT EXCEED 50,000 DOLS. IN VALUE REGARDLESS OF THE COMMODITY INVOLVED. BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AVERAGING 40,000 ANNUALLY, NEITHER THE REGIONAL BUREAUS NOR THE PERTINENT EMBASSIES ARE INFORMED ROUTINELY OF THOSE ACTIONS NOT REQUIRING BUREAU CLEARANCE.

HOWEVER, THE IDENTIFICATION AND VALUE OF COMMODITIES EXPORTED TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

3. UNDER THESE GUIDELINES, THEREFORE, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR BURMA TO PURCHASE NON-LETHAL ITEMS FROM A U.S. FIRM WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE BUREAU OR EMBASSY, EXCEPT UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS THOSE INVOLVING THE GUB'S RECENT PURCHASE OF TEAR GAS. IN SUCH INSTANCES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SEEK, AS WITH THE MORE RECENT PLANNED GUB PURCHASE OF ARMORED CARS (REF B), EMBASSY VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT ALSO IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT BURMA'S POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF U.S.-MADE ITEMS RELEVANT TO THE SUPPRESSION OF DEMONSTRATIONS OR CIVIL STRIFE, WE CAN PERCEIVE GOOD REASONS WHY WE MAY WISH TO DELAY OR TAKE OTHER SUITABLE ACTIONS TO DISASSOCIATE THE U.S. FROM SUCH GUB ACTIVITIES. TO HAVE SUCH OPTIONS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO INCLUDE IN THE ABOVE GUIDELINES SOME APPROPRIATE REFERENCE TO THE GUB PURCHASE OF ITEMS THAT APPEAR DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR ANTI-RIOT CONTROL. THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE UNDER REVIEW AND WE WILL KEEP THE EMBASSY INFORMED ACCORDINGLY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, INCAPACITATING AGENTS, EXPORT LICENSES, GRENADES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE019509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CLSTERMER:LRR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750031-0919
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750114/aaaaalsd.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 RANGOON 0092, 75 STATE 16568
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUIDANCE ON COMMERCIAL MUNITIONS EXPORTS
TAGS: MILI, BM, US
To: RANGOON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006